

CROP-WEATHER REPORT

Issue: 05-01 (ISSN 0896-4734)
Released: 2:00 p.m., MST, February 10, 2005
For Month Ending: January 31, 2005

ISSUED: WEEKLY: Apr-Oct
MONTHLY: Nov-Mar

 MONTANA
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE
10 W 15th St Suite 3100
Helena, MT 59626-0033
(406) 441-1240 or 1-800-835-2612
www.nass.usda.gov/mt/
nass-mt@nass.usda.gov

Agricultural Summary

January brought cold temperatures and snow fall to the vast majority of the state during the first half of the month followed by limited precipitation and above normal temperatures during the last half of the month. West Glacier received the greatest amount of precipitation for the month of January at 2.78 inches.

The weather outlook for the week of February 14-20 is for near normal temperatures and below normal precipitation for the west of the divide and above normal temperatures and near normal precipitation east of the divide. Normal temperatures for this period are lows from 5 to 20 and highs from the upper 20s to 40.

Soil Moisture Condition Table

	This Month	Last Year
Topsoil Moisture		
Very Short	29	11
Short	48	30
Adequate	22	55
Surplus	1	4
Subsoil Moisture		
Very Short	45	34
Short	38	43
Adequate	16	22
Surplus	1	1

Field Crops and Livestock Report

Winter wheat conditions are above last year due to less wind and freeze or drought damage. Snow cover for winter wheat has declined significantly from last year.

Livestock grazing is 74 percent open for grazing compared to last year's rating of 16 percent open. Calving and lambing are just beginning and are slightly ahead of last year.

Crop Table

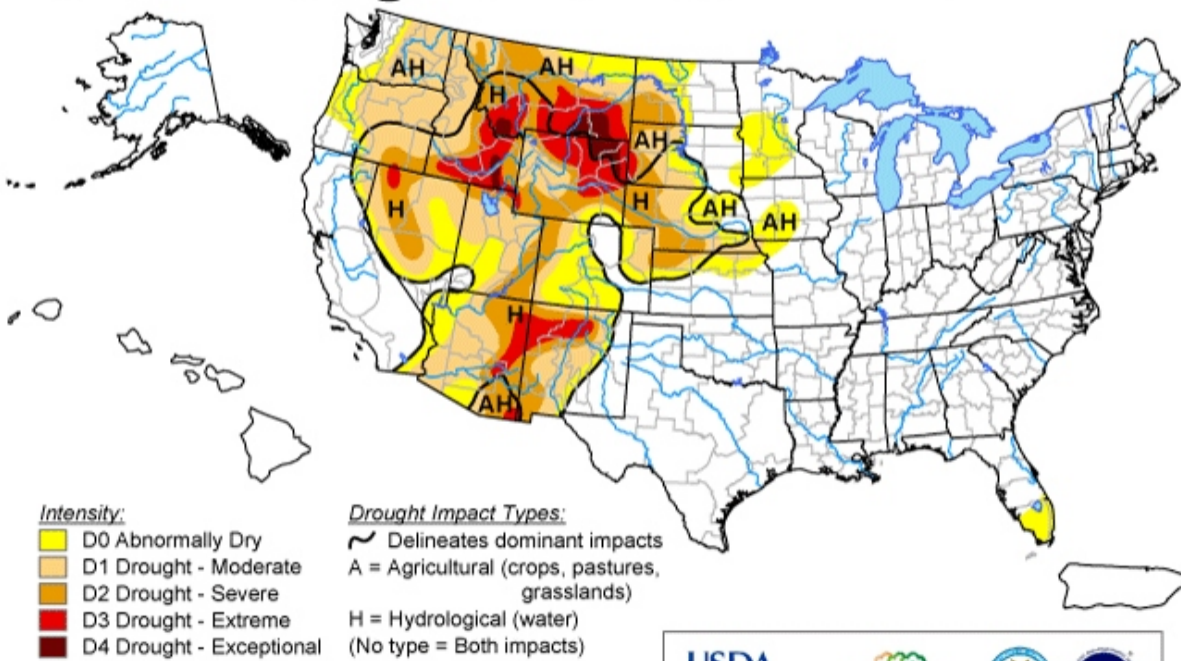
	This Month	Last Year
Winter Wheat - Condition		
Very Poor	1	5
Poor	6	13
Fair	37	46
Good	43	33
Excellent	13	3
Winter Wheat - Wind Damage		
None	45	29
Light	36	40
Moderate	18	19
Heavy	1	12
Winter Wheat - Freeze & Drought Damage		
None	45	31
Light	31	37
Moderate	23	28
Heavy	1	4
Winter Wheat - Protectiveness of Snow Cover Condition		
Very Poor	68	6
Poor	27	9
Fair	5	26
Good	0	41
Excellent	0	18

Livestock Table

	This Month	Last Year
Livestock Grazing		
Open	74	16
Difficult	12	31
Closed	14	53
Receiving Supplemental Feed		
Cattle	96	100
Sheep and Lambs	90	100
Calving Completed	6	4
Lambing Completed	3	2

U.S. Drought Monitor

February 1, 2005
Valid 7 a.m. EST



Intensity:
D0 Abnormally Dry
D1 Drought - Moderate
D2 Drought - Severe
D3 Drought - Extreme
D4 Drought - Exceptional

Drought Impact Types:
Delineates dominant impacts
A = Agricultural (crops, pastures, grasslands)
H = Hydrological (water)
(No type = Both impacts)

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

<http://drought.unl.edu/dm>



Released Thursday, February 3, 2005
Author: Brad Rippey, U.S. Department of Agriculture